

Appl. No. 10/668,932
Amdt. dated January 7, 2005
Reply to office action of October 7, 2004

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action mailed on October 7, 2004. The Office Action rejected Applicant's Claims 1-4, 7-10, 13-17 and 19-21 as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,115,667 ("Nakamura"). The Office Action rejected Claims 5, 6, 11, 12, 18 and 22-26 as obvious in view of combination of Nakamura and U.S. Pat. No. 6,477,459 ("Wunderlich").

With this response, Claims 1 and 14 have been amended. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider the present application. Applicant submits that all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Claim 1

Applicant's independent Claim 1 relates to a method of facilitating delivery of traffic messages. The method recites that the "broadcast service area is a portion of the geographic region not define by a transmission area of a single broadcast equipment." The method further recites transmitting traffic messages, each of the messages associated with a broadcast service area code identifying the broadcast service area in which the traffic condition is located. Claim 1 is not anticipated by Nakamura because the reference fails to disclose or suggest every claim element recited by the claim. Specifically, Nakamura does not disclose or suggest the recited broadcast service area.

Nakamura discloses system for providing map data and traffic information to navigation systems mounted on a car. The Nakamura system has a transmitting station that transmits map data and traffic information for an area corresponding to a transmission area of the respective transmitting station. (*see*, Nakamura: column 5, lines 11-16). The broadcast signal of the Nakamura system includes an identification code for identifying the transmitting station. (*see*, Nakamura: column 8, lines 44-47). Although Nakamura discloses an area corresponding to the transmission area of the transmission tower (*see*, Nakamura: column 3, lines 51-56), Nakamura fails to disclose the recited broadcast service area that is a portion of the geographic region not define by a transmission area of a single broadcast equipment. In fact, Nakamura discloses the opposite with the broadcast area being defined as the transmission area of the transmission tower with the identification

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code merely identifying the transmitting tower. In the Applicant's recited claim element the broadcast service area is a portion of the geographic region not defined by the transmission area of a single broadcast equipment. Rather, for example, the broadcast service area may be a metropolitan area or a portion of a metropolitan area.

Accordingly, because Nakamura fails to disclose or suggest all of the recited claim elements, Applicant's Claim 1 is not anticipated by Nakamura.

Claim 14

Applicant's independent Claim 14 relates to a method of facilitating delivery of traffic messages. The method recites obtaining data indicating a plurality of traffic conditions on a road network, for each of the traffic conditions the data provides a location reference code indicating a location of the traffic condition. The method further recites for each of the traffic conditions, using the location reference code to identify at least one of the broadcast service areas in which the traffic condition is located. Claim 14 is not anticipated by Nakamura because the reference fails to disclose or suggest every claim element recited by the claim.

Nakamura discloses system for providing map data and traffic information to navigation systems mounted on a car. The Nakamura system has transmitting stations that transmit map data and traffic information for an area corresponding to a transmission area of the respective transmitting station. (*see*, Nakamura: column 5, lines 11-16). The transmitting station includes apparatus that stores map data of the transmission area and traffic information received from a traffic information center (not shown or described). (*see*, Nakamura: column 4, lines 12-16, 22-28). Nakamura fails to disclose or suggest that data indicating traffic condition provides a location reference code indicating location of the traffic condition and using the location reference code to identify at least one of the broadcast service areas in which the traffic condition is located. In fact, Nakamura completely fails to mention location reference code for the traffic conditions.

Accordingly, because Nakamura fails to disclose or suggest all of the recited claim elements, Applicant's Claim 14 is not anticipated by Nakamura.

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Claim 19

Applicant's independent Claim 19 relates to traffic message providing data indicating a traffic condition. The traffic message comprises a location reference code of the traffic condition. Claim 19 is not anticipated by Nakamura because the reference fails to disclose or suggest every claim element recited by the claim. Specifically, Nakamura fails to disclose the location reference code.

Nakamura discloses system for providing map data and traffic information to navigation systems mounted on a car. The Nakamura system has transmitting stations that transmit map data and traffic information for an area corresponding to a transmission area of the respective transmitting station. (*see*, Nakamura: column 5, lines 11-16). Although, the broadcast signal of the Nakamura system includes an identification code for identifying the transmitting station (*see*, Nakamura: column 8, lines 44-47), Nakamura fails to disclose the traffic information including the location reference code of the traffic condition. In fact, Nakamura completely fails to mention location reference code of the traffic conditions.

Accordingly, because Nakamura fails to disclose or suggest all of the recited claim elements, Applicant's Claim 19 is not anticipated by Nakamura.

Claims 2-13, 15-18 and 20-26

Applicant's dependent Claims 2-13, 15-18 and 20-26 are allowable at least for the reason that they depend upon allowable base claims. In addition, these claims include features that are not disclosed by the cited references.

Information Disclosure Statements

Applicants have filed additional information disclosure statement on August 17, 2004 and October 8, 2004. Courtesy copies are attached for convenience.

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Conclusion

With the present response, all the issues in the Office Action mailed October 7, 2004 have been addressed. Applicant submits that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. If any issues remain, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



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